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SOURCE Izvestiya Akademii Nauk SSSR, Otdeleniye Ekonomiki i Prava. No 6, 1949.ECONOMIC STUDIES OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES USSR

A conference of economists and legal specialists of the Academy of Sciences USSR took place, 12 - 17 October 1949, to discuss the coordination of economic and legal research of union republic academies of sciences and branches of the Academy of Sciences USSR. Between 120 and 150 people participated in the conference.

Several papers were read at the conference. K. V. Ostrovityanov emphasized the point that the chief shortcoming of the work of the Institute of Economics is its divorce from reality. A summary of his remarks follows:

The principal task of the institute is to study the processes involved in the Soviet economy, the development of socialist construction, the economics of industrial and commercial enterprises, and of state and collective farms; and to set forth the actual national economic problems together with practical conclusions as to the kind of measures necessary to accelerate socialist reproduction. In the field of foreign economics the work of the institute, aside from the exposed blunders of a reformist nature, suffers from a lack of thorough analysis of the processes and new phenomena of present-day capitalist economy.

The Institute of Economics plans a series of studies for 1950 dealing with actual problems of Soviet and foreign economics. Included will be studies on the development of the political economy of socialism, the economics of socialist industrial enterprises, the economics of collective farming, socialist distribution of productive forces, as well as studies dealing with the economy of the people's democracies and the economic crisis in capitalist countries.

The most important condition for the successful accomplishment of the plan of scientific work in the field of economics is the continuous professional contact between the Institute of Economics and the institutes of economics of the union republic academies of sciences and also the economic divisions of the branches of the Academy of Sciences USSR. Until now, coordination between economic institutes and divisions was predominantly of a formal character.

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Most of the work of the economic institutes of the union republic academies dealt mainly with technological economics and economic geography, while questions relating to the use of economic controls of socialist production and distribution, cost accounting, wages etc., were not given sufficient attention.

The principal tasks of local economic institutes and divisions are as follows: (1) participation in the study of problems relating to economic complexes, undertaken in collaboration with technological and natural science institutes of the Academy of Sciences USSR and union republic academies of sciences; (2) study of problems relating to cost accounting, raising labor productivity, reducing production cost, accelerating the turnover of working capital, proper utilization of fixed assets, increasing the rate of profits, and organization of labor and distribution of incomes on collective farms.

The relationship between the Institute of Economics and local economic institutes and divisions should not be formal. Scientific conferences should be called periodically to discuss individual problems relating to economic complexes, as, for example, "The Complex Development of the Productive Forces of the Fergana Valley," or problems of cost accounting, wages, collective farms, etc.

Professor V. F. Vasyutin, in his paper on the "Organization and Methods of Studying Problems Relating to Economic Complexes," characterized the tasks confronting economists in studying the productive forces of the country. The speaker listed 35 of the most important problems relating to the development of economic complexes. Included in this list were the following complexes: Angara-Yenisey, Greater Altay, Greater Iliy, Fergana, Aral-Caspian Seas, Kura-Araks, Sevan-Sanga, Poles'ye, and others. Vasyutin said that research on these problems is the key to the future development of the economy of these regions and the national economy of the USSR as a whole. However, he added, this field of research is not yet sufficiently developed either in scope or quality. The most glaring shortcomings are insufficient coordination of scientific research and undeveloped methodology, particularly the methodology for the study of economic complexes, he asserted.

B. A. Pal'min, in his paper on "Problems of the Development of the Fergana Valley Industrial Complex," pointed out that the Academy of Sciences Uzbek SSR was doing good and useful work in its studies of the future economic development of the Fergana region. Information about the power resources of the Fergana Valley and its mineral deposits will enable the government to plan for the proper development of the principal branches of the Uzbek economy, he said.

I. T. Shevertalov, in his paper entitled "Problems Relating to the Complex Utilization of Power Resources of the Iliy River Basin" emphasized the future development of industry and agriculture in that region, based on the utilization of the power resources of the Iliy River and its tributaries which will solve the electrification problem of Kazakh SSR.

The resolution adopted by the conference recorded the opportuneness and fruitfulness of the work of the conference on coordinating scientific research work. It was admitted that up to now coordination was carried on in a haphazard manner and that there was no properly organized contact between the scientific institutions of the union republic academies of sciences and the Academy of Sciences USSR. It was further recorded that many local institutes and divisions of economics do not pay sufficient attention to practical economic problems and are almost exclusively engaged in historical studies of the national economy.

It was decided that two general conferences should be called each year: one in February to discuss the results of the scientific development of specific problems and one in October to consider the problems which are to be studied in the following year. The first of these conferences is to take place in February 1950.

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